General Assembly

Distr.: General
7 October 2008

Sixty-second session
Agenda item 64 (*b*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/62/L.47 and Add.1)*]

62/275. Implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling the report of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group on the Causes of Conflict and the Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa[1] and its resolutions 53/92 of 7 December 1998, 54/234 of 22 December 1999, 55/217 of 21 December 2000, 56/37 of 4 December 2001, 57/296 of 20 December 2002, 57/337 of 3 July 2003, 58/235 of 23 December 2003, 59/255 of 23 December 2004, 60/223 of 23 December 2005 and 61/230 of 22 December 2006, as well as its resolutions 62/179 of 19 December 2007 on the New Partnership for Africa's Development and 59/213 of 20 December 2004 on cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union,

Recalling also, in this context, Security Council resolutions 1809 (2008) of 16 April 2008 on peace and security in Africa, 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000 and 1820 (2008) of 19 June 2008 on women and peace and security, 1366 (2001) of 30 August 2001 on the role of the Council in the prevention of armed conflicts, 1612 (2005) of 26 July 2005 on children and armed conflict, 1625 (2005) of 14 September 2005 on strengthening the effectiveness of the Council's role in conflict prevention, particularly in Africa, and 1631 (2005) of 17 October 2005 on cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security,

Recalling further the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[2] through which world leaders reaffirmed their commitment to addressing the special needs of Africa,

Recognizing that development, peace, security and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing,

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 45* (A/56/45).

[2] See resolution 60/1.

Recalling the creation by the Economic and Social Council, by its resolution 2002/1 of 15 July 2002, of ad hoc advisory groups on African countries emerging from conflict,

Stressing that the responsibility for peace and security in Africa, including the capacity to address the root causes of conflict and to resolve conflicts in a peaceful manner, lies primarily with African countries, while recognizing the need for support from the international community,

Recognizing, in particular, the importance of strengthening the capacity of the African Union and subregional organizations to address the causes of conflict in Africa,

Noting that despite the positive trends and advances in obtaining durable peace in Africa, the conditions required for sustainable development have yet to be consolidated throughout the continent and that there is therefore an urgent need to develop African human and institutional capacities, particularly in countries emerging from conflict,

Noting also that conflict prevention and the consolidation of peace would benefit from the coordinated, sustained and integrated efforts of the United Nations system and Member States, and regional and subregional organizations, as well as international and regional financial institutions,

Reaffirming the need to strengthen the synergy between Africa's economic and social development programmes and its peace and security agenda,

Reaffirming also the importance of the Peacebuilding Commission as a dedicated mechanism to address, in an integrated manner, the special needs of countries emerging from conflict towards recovery, reintegration and reconstruction and to assist them in laying the foundation for peace and sustainable development,

Underlining the need to address the negative implications of the illegal exploitation of natural resources in all its aspects for peace, security and development in Africa, and underlining also the fact that the illicit trade in natural resources is a matter of serious international concern, which can be directly linked to the fuelling of armed conflicts and the illicit trade in and proliferation of arms, especially small arms and light weapons,

1. *Takes note* of the progress report of the Secretary-General[3] on the implementation of the recommendations contained in his report on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa,[4] and welcomes recent institutional developments in addressing such causes and other efforts in conflict prevention, peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding undertaken by African countries, African regional organizations and the United Nations system;

2. *Welcomes* the progress made, in particular by the African Union and the subregional organizations, in the prevention, management and resolution of conflict and in post-conflict peacebuilding in a number of African countries, and calls for intensified efforts and a coordinated approach between national Governments, the African Union, subregional organizations, the United Nations system and partners with a view to achieving further progress towards the goal of a conflict-free Africa;

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[3] A/62/204.

[4] A/52/871-S/1998/318.

3. *Recognizes* that international and regional efforts to prevent conflict and consolidate peace in Africa should be channelled towards the sustainable development of Africa and human and institutional capacity-building of African countries and organizations, particularly in priority areas identified at the continental level;

4. *Calls upon* the United Nations system to continue to mainstream the special needs of Africa in all its normative and operational activities;

5. *Welcomes* efforts to enhance practical cooperation, within the framework of an effective partnership, between the United Nations and the African Union in the realm of conflict prevention and resolution, crisis management, peacemaking, peacekeeping and post-conflict peacebuilding in Africa, and in this context urges the United Nations system and the international community to increase, coordinate and sustain their efforts aimed at assisting African countries in addressing the full range of causes of conflict in Africa;

6. *Recalls* the signing of the declaration on enhancing cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union, in Addis Ababa, on 16 November 2006, [5] and the ongoing efforts in this regard, and underlines the importance of the implementation of the ten-year capacity-building programme for the African Union, mainly focusing on peace and security, in particular the operationalization of the African Standby Force, urges all stakeholders to support the full implementation of the ten-year programme for the African Union, and requests the Secretary-General to include in his next annual report on the implementation of the recommendations contained in his 1998 report,[4] a detailed account of the progress achieved in this regard;

7. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts of the African Union and the subregional organizations to strengthen their peacekeeping capacity and to take the lead in peacekeeping operations in the continent, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations and in close coordination with the United Nations, through the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, as well as ongoing efforts to develop a continental early warning system, response capacity, such as the African Standby Force, and enhanced mediation capacity, including through the Panel of the Wise;

8. *Notes with appreciation* the establishment of the multidisciplinary African Union Peacekeeping Support Team within the Department for Peacekeeping Operations at the Secretariat, and reaffirms the need for the United Nations and other development partners to increase their support for the African Union, including through existing forums for cooperation with Africa, in order to enhance its capacity and effectiveness in the planning, deployment and management of peacekeeping operations, including in the advanced training of African peacekeepers, and in peacebuilding activities, and encourages the donor community to provide further support to the African Union, including through the replenishment of its Peace Fund;

9. *Calls for* a holistic and coordinated approach at the national, subregional, regional and international levels to improve the effectiveness of mechanisms for conflict prevention and resolution, crisis management, peacemaking, peacekeeping and post-conflict peacebuilding efforts in Africa, and reaffirms the need for

[5] A/61/630, annex.

observing such an approach in the design and implementation of all programmes within the context of the ten-year capacity-building programme;

10. *Stresses* the critical importance of a regional approach to conflict prevention, in particular with respect to cross-border issues such as disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes, the prevention of illegal exploitation of natural resources and trafficking in high-value commodities and the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, and in this regard emphasizes the central role of the African Union and the subregional organizations in addressing such issues;

11. *Reaffirms* its commitment to address the special needs of Africa, where some progress can be noted but where some countries remain off track in meeting the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, in order to enable it to enter the mainstream of the world economy, and to strengthen cooperation with the New Partnership for Africa's Development [6] by providing coherent support for the programmes drawn up by African leaders within that framework, including by mobilizing internal and external financial resources and facilitating approval of such programmes by the multilateral financial institutions;

12. *Welcomes* the adoption of Security Council resolution 1809 (2008) on peace and security in Africa;

13. *Notes with concern* that violence against women and children everywhere continues and often increases, even as armed conflicts draw to an end, urges further progress in the implementation of policies and guidelines relating to the protection of and assistance to women and children in conflict and post-conflict situations, and notes the adoption of Security Council resolution 1820 (2008) on women and peace and security;

14. *Calls upon* the United Nations system and Member States to support the African Union in its effort to effectively integrate training in international humanitarian law and international human rights law, with particular emphasis on the rights of women and children, in the training of civilian and military personnel of national standby contingents at both the operational and tactical levels, as set out in article 13 of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union;[7]

15. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts of the African Union to ensure protection of the rights of women in conflict and post-conflict situations, recalls, in this regard, the adoption of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa[7] and the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa[7] by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union at their second and third ordinary sessions, held in Maputo in July 2003 and Addis Ababa in July 2004, and their entry into force, stresses the significance of those instruments for all countries in Africa in strengthening the role of women in peace and conflict prevention in the continent, and strongly urges the United Nations and all parties to redouble their efforts and support in this regard;

16. *Calls for* the enhancement of the role of women in conflict prevention, conflict resolution and post-conflict peacebuilding consistent with Security Council resolution 1325 (2000);

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[6] A/57/304, annex.

[7] Available from www.africa-union.org.

17. *Notes with concern* the tragic plight of children in conflict situations in Africa, in particular the phenomenon of child soldiers, as well as other grave violations against children, and stresses the need for the protection of children in armed conflicts, post-conflict counselling, rehabilitation and education, with due regard to the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council;

18. *Takes note* of the conclusions of the expert group meeting on "Youth in Africa: participation of youth as partners in peace and development in post-conflict countries", held in Namibia in November 2006,[8] and calls upon the United Nations system and Member States to adopt strategies to include youth as central stakeholders and key actors in the rehabilitation, reconciliation and rebuilding of war-torn communities and in contributing to sustainable development in their countries;

19. *Recognizes* the important role of the good offices of the Secretary-General in Africa, and encourages the Secretary-General to continue to use mediation as often as possible to help to solve conflicts peacefully, taking due consideration of the work performed by the African Union and the subregional organizations in that regard;

20. *Notes* the efforts of the Mediation Support Unit, newly established in the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat, in particular the establishment of a standby team of mediation experts who will be on call to assist in peacemaking efforts around the world;

21. *Invites* the United Nations and the donor community to increase efforts to support ongoing regional efforts to build African mediation and negotiation capacity;

22. *Welcomes* African-led initiatives to strengthen political, economic and corporate governance, such as the African Peer Review Mechanism, encourages even more African countries to join this process, and calls upon the United Nations system and Member States to assist African Member States and regional and subregional organizations in their efforts to enhance good governance, including the promotion of the rule of law and the holding of free and fair elections;

23. *Recognizes* the role of the Peacebuilding Commission in ensuring that national ownership of the peacebuilding process in countries emerging from conflict is observed and that nationally identified priorities are at the core of international and regional efforts in post-conflict peacebuilding in the countries under consideration, notes the important steps taken by the Commission in engaging with Sierra Leone, Burundi, Guinea-Bissau and the Central African Republic through integrated peacebuilding strategies, calls for sustained regional and international commitment to the implementation of these strategies and their design process, recalls the adoption of the Sierra Leone Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework [9] and the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding for Burundi, [10] and calls for their implementation;

24. *Calls upon* the United Nations system and invites Member States to assist African countries emerging from conflict in their efforts to build national capacities of governance, including the rehabilitation of the security sector,

[8] Available from www.un.org/africa/osaa/reports.html.

[9] PBC/2/SLE/1.

[10] PBC/1/BDI/4, annex.

disarmament, demobilization and the reintegration of ex-combatants, provision for the safe return of internally displaced persons and refugees, the launch of income-generation activities, particularly for youth and women, and the delivery of basic public services;

25. *Stresses* the importance of effectively addressing challenges that continue to hamper the achievement of peace, stability and sustainable development on the continent, inter alia, the increased prevalence of infectious disease such as HIV/AIDS, the effects of global warming and climate change, the extremely high rates of youth unemployment, human trafficking, massive displacements of people, the illegal exploitation of natural resources, the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, the emergence of terrorist networks and the increased activity of transnational organized crime, and in this regard encourages the United Nations system and Member States to assist African countries to effectively address these challenges;

26. *Also stresses* the importance of creating an environment conducive to national reconciliation and social and economic recovery in countries emerging from conflict;

27. *Encourages* African Governments to establish appropriate structures and policies to create an environment conducive to attracting direct foreign investment, calls upon African Member States and regional and subregional organizations to assist African countries emerging from conflict in devising national natural resources and public revenue management structures, and invites the international community to assist in that process by providing adequate financial and technical assistance, as well as by renewing its commitment to efforts aimed at combating the illegal exploitation of the natural resources of those countries;

28. *Welcomes* the various important initiatives of Africa's development partners in recent years, inter alia, the Africa Partnership Forum, the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership, the China-Africa Partnership, the European Union-Africa Strategic Partnership, the Group of Eight-Africa Partnership, the Millennium Challenge Account, the Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief of the President of the United States of America and the Tokyo International Conference on African Development, and emphasizes, in this regard, the importance of coordination in such initiatives on Africa and the need for their effective implementation;

29. *Requests* the Secretary-General to consider the need to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session a report on the outcome of the review of his 1998 report;

30. *Decides* to continue to monitor the implementation of the recommendations contained in the 1998 report of the Secretary-General;

31. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session a progress report on the implementation of the present resolution.

121st plenary meeting
11 September 2008